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Distrusts Articles' 'Flavor'

Fulbright Calls for Full Nixon - Khrushchev Texts

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21.—
Sen. J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, today questioned the "propriety" of the State Department's alleged role in providing material for the recent New York Herald Tribune series "The Secret Face of Khrushchev."

The Arkansas Democrat couplet this, in a letter to Secretary of State Christian A. Herter released today, with a call for full disclosure of transcripts of the July, 1959, talks between Vice-President Nixon and Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev.

The series of articles by Earl Mazo, Herald Tribune national political correspondent, concerned the Russian leader's thinking on important world issues and were based on the Nixon - Khrushchev Moscow talks. The articles were widely syndicated.

Sen. Fulbright said he understands the transcripts are "in the custody" of the State Department and added:

"You must appreciate, as I do, the question of propriety involved in permitting ex parte use of documents of a governmental character not in the public domain."

The Foreign Relations Chairman also sent a letter to Robert M. White II, editor and president of the New York Herald Tribune, pointing out that the Nixon-Khrushchev transcripts "have never been made public" or even made available to his committee.

Recalling that Mr. Mazo is author of a biography of Mr. Nixon, now Republican Presidential candidate, Sen. Fulbright said the fact that the transcript remain secret gives the American people "no basis to form an opinion of Mr. Nixon's competence except through the mind of one man, Mr. Mazo, the biographer."

"I do not think this is fair to your readers and to the American public generally," he continued. "For that reason, I hope very much that the Herald Tribune will agree with the position I have taken in the enclosed copy of a letter to Secretary Herter and urge that the Department of State release the full account of the Nixon-Khrushchev conversations.

"I hope also that if these conversations are made public, the them in full, thus enabling the

people to judge for themselves Mr. Nixon's ability in dealing with Mr. Khrushchev."

Mr. White, replying in a letter to Sen. Fulbright, said Mr. Mazo "one of our outstanding newsmen . . . did most of the work on the recent Khrushchev series last December. This included extensive interviewing.

"I am completely satisfied as to the accuracy of his work."

Concerning the release of government information, the Herald Tribune's position is, and has been all along, that as much government information as possible, short of breaching security, should, of course, be made available to the people."

The State Department would say only that Sen. Fulbright's letter to Mr. Herter has been received and a reply will be made. A department spokesman declined any comment on the status of the transcripts or whether they would be made public.

Sen. Fulbright, in his letter to Mr. Herter, said:

"According to information from sources privileged to see the transcripts, I understand the full flavor is somewhat different from the impression conveyed in the articles—specifically, that the complete text leaves small doubt that the Soviet Premier maintained the control of the course of the interchange, with the Vice-President in position of giving debater's answers. I do not know what interpretation is correct."

Release of the full transcript, he said, could clear up the "question of interpretation," and he added: "It seems to be the proper course now that the contents have been imparted to one reporter for the in the news."

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